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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/802,901	03/16/2004	Yung-Lin Lin	O2MICRO 00.09 CON2	4638
7590	06/29/2005		EXAMINER	
Edmund P. Pfleger Grossman Tucker Perreault & Pfleger, PLLC 55 South Commercial Street Manchester, NH 03101			A, MINH D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2821	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/802,901	LIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Minh D. A	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 57-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 57-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 57-68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated unpatentable by Min et al (US 6,864,643).

Regarding claim 57, Min discloses (IC 210 circuit) for generating a plurality of phase-shifted burst mode signals, and regulating power to a plurality of loads using respective said phase shifted burst mode signals. See figures 4-9, col.3, lines 54-67 to col.8, lines 1-49.

Regarding claim 58, Min discloses IC210 for generating a PWM signal and wherein power delivered to each respective load determined by the pulse width of said PWM signal. See figures 4-7, col.3, lines 54-67 to col.8, lines 1-49.

Regarding claim 59, Min discloses PWM1-PWM4 for determining a frequency of at least one of said phase-shifted burst mode signals based on a frequency selection signal. See figures 1-3, col.2, lines 10-40.

Regarding claim 60, Min discloses each said load comprises a CCFL. See figure 1.

Regarding claim 61, Min discloses a pair of transformer oscillators for generating a plurality of AC signals based at least in part on a respective phase-shifted burst mode signal; and supplying respective AC signals to respective loads. See col.4, lines 19-50.

Regarding claim 62, Min discloses SWA and SWB for turning power to at least one load on and off based on, at least in part, the state of a respective phase-shifted burst mode signal. See col.4, lines 19-50.

Regarding claim 63, Min discloses 63. (New) An apparatus, comprising: an integrated circuit capable of generating a plurality of phase-shifted burst mode signals, said integrated circuit further capable of regulating power to a plurality of loads using respective said phase shifted burst mode signals.

Regarding claim 64, Min discloses the integrated circuit (IC 210) comprising modulator circuitry and phased delay array circuitry, said modulator circuitry is capable of generating a PWM signal having a pulse width, said phased delay array circuitry is capable of receiving said PWM signal and setting a pulse width of at least one said phase-shifted burst mode signal based on the pulse width of said PWM signal. See figures 4-9, col.3, lines 54-67 to col.8, lines 1-49.

Regarding claim 65, Min discloses the integrated circuit (IC 210) further comprising frequency selector circuitry (SWA and SWB) for receiving a reference signal and generating a frequency selection signal based on said reference signal, wherein said phased delay array circuitry (shift oscillation) is further capable of receiving the frequency selection signal and setting the frequency of said phase-shifted burst mode signals based at least in part on said frequency selection signal. See col.4, lines 19-50.

Regarding claim 66, Min discloses the integrated circuit further (IC 210) comprising phase array driver circuitry capable of receiving said plurality of phase-shifted burst mode signals and generating at least one power regulating signal for each respective load. See figure 4.

Regarding claim 67, Min discloses said loads comprise a plurality of CCFLs. See abstract.

Regarding claim 68, Min discloses said plurality of CCFLs arranged in an LCD panel. See col.6, lines 7-56.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Mader et al (US 6,469,454) and Sattler et al. (US 6,904,112) are cited to show a cold cathode fluorescent lamp controller.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Minh A whose telephone number is (571) 272-1817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30 –2:30 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong, can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for final communications.

Art Unit: 2821


Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1553.

Examiner

Minh A

Art unit 2821

6/27/05



WILSON LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER